

Bites by Aphis Lion (Neur.: Chrysopidae).

Dr. L. O. Howard has called our attention to the following letter on this subject in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for December 13, 1930, page 1855, which we reprint here, as the original may not come to the attention of all entomologists.

To the Editor.—A prolonged drought, as a disturbance, digs deep into the daily web of life. The aphid lion (Chrysopidae) usually finds aphides enough and to spare; but not this dry year. As a result, he turned to anything bearing blood and I have known of six or more bites this summer. About the first week in August, sitting under a large white oak tree in my yard, I felt a sharp bite on the wrist and looked to find, to me, a new form of insect sinking his "beak" into the flexor aspect of my wrist so vigorously and with such manifest enjoyment that I became more interested than angry. He was a yellowish, spotted, canoe-shaped larva of some kind about 5 or 6 mm. long, with a pair of long curved, almost parallel mandibles, now covered with blood, with which he was tearing the flesh. Some movement of mine made him move about an inch away, where he started again, nothing daunted. The pain was more like a bite than a sting, but the after results indicated some new and novel toxin. Interested, I let him suck his fill at the second bite, and then I bottled him for identification—with the result mentioned. An hour later there was an intense burning pain, worse than any mosquito bite, with an areola an inch or more in diameter around the first bite and almost none around the second, showing seemingly a mosquito-like initial injection of some anti-clotting globulin. The next day the two were equally inflamed and almost purpuric in tint. It was not until the fourth day that the inflammation began to decline. Two friends who saw the "bug" had experiences almost as bad, and one or two others who visited me had "strange bites" of untoward severity. Has this experience been found elsewhere? I am anxious to know.

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[Dr. Howard in the first edition of his *Insect Book*, page 223, and Dr. Werner Marchand (ENT NEWS, XXXIII, p. 120, April, 1922) have described similar cases, but in neither instance do the effects of the bites appear to have been as prolonged as in those narrated by Dr. Barringer.—EDITOR, ENT. NEWS.]